

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An external defibrillator with a defibrillation energy delivery circuit comprising:
a delivery mode input; and
a mode switch for selectively adding impedance to said energy delivery circuit, the mode switch position based on said delivery mode input.
2. The defibrillator of Claim 1 wherein said delivery mode input comprises a parameter indicating the type of an electrode coupled to the defibrillator.
3. The defibrillator of Claim 2, wherein said electrode type parameter is selected from the group consisting of adult, pediatric, or internal electrodes.
4. The defibrillator of Claim 2, wherein said delivery mode input further comprises a parameter indicating the position of a pair of said electrodes on a patient.
5. The defibrillator of Claim 4, wherein said electrode pair position parameter is selected from the group consisting of anterior-anterior, anterior-posterior, and internal positions.
6. The defibrillator of Claim 1, wherein said mode switch further comprises a plurality of switches arranged in parallel, the positions of said plurality of switches based on said delivery mode input.

7. The defibrillator of Claim 1, further comprising:
 - an energy source; and
 - a voltage charger to charge the energy source to a voltage based on the delivery mode input.
8. The defibrillator of Claim 1, wherein the position of said mode switch is further based on a parameter indicating the success of a previous defibrillation shock.
9. The defibrillator of Claim 1, wherein the position of said mode switch is further based on a measure of patient impedance.
10. A method for compensating defibrillation current for cardiac shunt currents, comprising the steps of:
 - detecting the mode of delivery of the defibrillation current; and
 - selectively adding impedance in series with the defibrillation current based on said detecting step.
11. The method of Claim 10, wherein said detecting step comprises detecting the type of an electrode which is coupled to the defibrillator.
12. The method of Claim 11, wherein said electrode type is selected from the group consisting of adult, pediatric, and internal electrodes.

13. The method of Claim 11, wherein said detecting step further comprises detecting a parameter indicating the position of a pair of said electrodes on a patient.
14. The method of Claim 13, wherein said electrode pair position parameter is selected from the group consisting of anterior-anterior, anterior-posterior, and internal positions.
15. The method of Claim 10, wherein said step of selectively adding impedance further comprises positioning a plurality of switches arranged in parallel based on said detecting step.
16. The method of Claim 10, further comprising the step of charging a defibrillation energy source to a voltage based on said detecting step.
17. The method of Claim 10, wherein the step of selectively adding impedance is further based on detecting a parameter indicating the success of a previous defibrillation shock.
18. The method of Claim 10, wherein the step of selectively adding impedance is further based on a step of measuring patient impedance.

19. An apparatus for delivering electrotherapy in one of a plurality of delivery modes, comprising an electrotherapy delivery circuit which is selectively configured as one of a voltage source or a modified current source, depending upon the delivery mode.
20. A method for delivering electrotherapy in one of a plurality of delivery modes, comprising the step of selectively configuring an electrotherapy delivery circuit as one of a voltage source or a modified current source as a function of said delivery mode.